

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 has been amended. In FIG. 1, a numeral 100 designating personal computer has been replaced with numeral 300.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet Drawing for Figure 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to FIG. 1 of the drawings because PC 300 was allegedly labeled with numeral 100. In response, Applicants make appropriate correction. Applicants' correction is believed to be fully responsive to Examiner's objection.

Objections to Specification

The Examiner has objected to paragraphs 37, 43 and 44 of the specification because of certain informalities. In response, Applicants make appropriate corrections to paragraphs 37, 43 and 44. Applicants' corrections are believed to be fully responsive to Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Yang (Visualizing Spoken Discourse). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to independent claim 1 and further in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Yang fails to teach or suggest the claimed predictive model of discourse functions and claimed step of determining such predictive model. When the term “predictive model of discourse functions” used in the claim is properly interpreted in accordance with the specification, it should be construed to mean a model that can be used to predict a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function, see, for example, paragraph 5 of the specification. On the other hand, Yang does not disclose anything even similar to such predictive model.

In more detail, Yang teaches representing discourse graphically in order to show that interruptions are part of local and global coherence of the speech, see Yang, Abstract. On the other hand, Yang has nothing to do with determining predictive model of discourse functions, which can be used to predict a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function. Such predictive model was never mentioned by Yang and determining such was never contemplated in Yang's article. Moreover, the graphical analysis taught by Yang cannot be used for predicting a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function, as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Yang fails to teach or suggest the claimed predictive model of discourse functions and claimed step of determining such predictive model and claim 1 is not anticipated by Yang.

Because the original independent claims recited "determining at least one predictive model of discourse functions," which should be properly construed as stated above, these claims clearly distinguished from the teachings of Yang. On the other hand, in order to facilitate the prosecution of the present application and further emphasize the aforesaid distinction between the claim 1 and Yang, Applicants amend this claim to recite explicitly state that the predictive model of discourse functions is operable to predict a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claim 1 clearly distinguishes from Yang et al. and, therefore, is not anticipated by that reference.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 2 and 6-10, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teaching of Yang used in the rejection of these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims was

rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claim 1 and that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon patentable parent claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yang (Visualizing Spoken Discourse) in view of Chino (U.S. patent No. 5,761,637). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to parent independent claim 1 and further in view of the following arguments.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 3, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teaching of Yang and Chino used by the Examiner in the rejection of this claim, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of this claim was rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claim 1 and that this claim is patentable by definition, by virtue of its dependence upon patentable parent claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yang (Visualizing Spoken Discourse) in view of Shriberg (Prosody-Based Automatic Segmentation of Speech into Sentences and Topics). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to parent independent claim 1 and further in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, Applicants have amended independent claims 11, 21 and 22 similarly to claim 1, to include a limitation wherein the predictive model of discourse functions is operable to predict a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function. As stated above, Yang fails to teach or suggest this feature of the claimed invention. On the other hand, the second reference cited by the Examiner, Shriberg, is directed to segmenting a speech into sentences and topics and also does not teach or suggest the aforesaid predictive model of

discourse functions and their determination. Thus, Shriberg fails to remedy the aforesaid deficiency of Yang and, therefore, the patentability arguments made about with respect to claim 1 equally apply to independent claims 11, 21 and 22 as well. Therefore, neither Yang nor Shriberg teach or suggest the claimed predictive model of discourse functions operable to predict a likelihood that a specific recognized speech reflects a specific discourse function and claims 11, 21 and 22 are patentable over Yang and Shriberg.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 4, 5, 12 and 13-20, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teaching of Yang used in the rejection of these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims was rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claims 1 and 11 and that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon patentable parent claims 1 and 11.'

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yang (Visualizing Spoken Discourse) in view of Shriberg (Prosody-Based Automatic Segmentation of Speech into Sentences and Topics) and further in view of n view of Chino (U.S. patent No. 5,761,637). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to parent independent claim 11 and further in view of the following arguments.

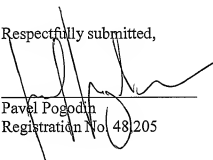
With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 13, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teaching of Yang, Shriberg and Chino used by the Examiner in the rejection of this claim, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of this claim was rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claim 11 and that this claim is patentable by definition, by virtue of its dependence upon patentable parent claim 11.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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